

Gravitation

Scans by Allera

<http://Honko-scans.blogspot.com>



Remember If You Like It,
Buy It!



Gravitation *Collection*

Volume 1

By
Maki Murakami



HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Gravitation Collection Volume 1
by Maki Murakami

Translation - Ray Yoshimoto
English Adaptation - Jamie S. Rich
Copy Editor - Hope Donovan
Retouch and Lettering - Star Print Brokers
Production Artist - Rui Kyo
Graphic Designer - Louis Csontos

Editor - Alexis Kirsch
Print Production Manager - Lucas Rivera
Managing Editor - Vy Nguyen
Senior Designer - Louis Csontos
Associate Publisher - Marco F. Pawla
President and C.O.O. - John Parker
C.E.O. and Chief Creative Officer - Stu Levy



TOKYOPOP and  are trademarks or registered trademarks of TOKYOPOP Inc.

TOKYOPOP Inc.
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

E-mail: info@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

© 2003 MAKI MURAKAMI and GENTOSHA COMICS INC. All Rights Reserved. "Gravitation" is a trademark of GENTOSHA COMICS INC. English-language translation arranged by TOKYOPOP GENTOSHA COMICS, JK, LLC. All Rights Reserved. English text copyright © 2009 TOKYOPOP Inc.

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. This manga is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

ISBN: 978-1-4278-1653-5

First TOKYOPOP printing: June 2009

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in the USA



Gravitation

Collection

村上真紀

Maki Murakami

Gravitation

Collection



CONTENTS

track 1

7

track 2

57

track 3

105

track 4

151

track 5

195

track 6

237

track 7

261

track 8

326

CD-ROM



Gravitation

track 1

DESTINY IS
UNSTOPPABLE.

IVE TRIED
LAUGHTER,
IVE TRIED TEARS;
BUT IT ALWAYS
OVERPOWERS ME.

IT DOESNT CARE
A THING ABOUT
MY FEARS,
IT TAKES MY
LOVE, AND IT
DEVOURS ME.



WHY WRITE
LOVE SONGS
WHEN WE CAN
SKIP STRAIGHT
TO THE DIRTY
STUFF?

IT
OVERPOWERS
AND
DEVOURS,
SH?



YOU CRACKING
UNDER THE
PRESSURE,
MAN? WE'VE
STILL GOT TWO
DAYS UNTIL
THE SCHOOL
TALENT
SHOW.



I'VE GOT
NOTHING
BUT LOVE,
BABY!

I CAN'T
TALK IF
YOU'RE
GONG
BEHIND ON
CASCARIE.



SHUICHI?

I THINK
JUST A FEW
MORE TWEAKS,
AND YOU'VE
GOT A SONG...
DON'T YOU?



JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T WORK ON IT IN CLASS. YOU KEEP SCREENING UP, AND THEY'RE GONNA KICK YOU OUT OF HERE.

Know where I can plug this in?

YEAH, I CAN PROBABLY TIGHTEN IT UP BEFORE JAPANESE CLASS.



TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

SHUT UP!

I'M LEADING A REVOLUTION AGAINST JAPAN'S OPPRESSIVE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM! I'M FIGHTING A WAR FOR ART!

YEAH!



DON'T WORRY, MEO. TECHNO IS A SPONTANEOUS FORM OF MUSIC.

If it weren't for you, we wouldn't be in this mess.

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE LEADER OF THIS BAND. YOU GONNA LET YOUR SUITABLY MAKE UP HIS OWN TUNES?

IN THAT CASE, WHY GO TO CLASS AT ALL?

BECAUSE IF I MISS ANY MORE, THEY'LL REALLY EXPEL ME!



heh
heh
heh

HEY,
SHINDOU,
YOUR SECRET
ADVICEE IS
HERE. HUBBA
HUBBA.
♡



FORGET
ELECTRO-
NICS! THE
GUITAR
IS ROCK!

**GOOD
MORNING,
SHUICHI!**



HERE'S
YOUR BOX
LUNCH,
CUTIE
PIE!



I MADE IT
MYSELF
AND
SEASONED
IT WITH
LOVE!

How's it hangin'?



HEY, MAIKO,
YOU AND YOUR
BROTHER ARE
ALWAYS A
LITTLE HYPER.
IT'S LIKE A
FAMILY TRAIT.



ARE YOU
SAYING
YOU'RE NOT
HUNGRY?

*Sounds
good
every
morning*

LISTEN, CAN
WE BE A LITTLE
CASUAL WITH
NOW WE PLEASE
THINGS, IN TERMS
OF OUR BEING
RELATED..?

NOT I'M
STARVING!



*Electro-
shocked?*

BY
THE WAY,
YOU TWO
MENTAL
CAGES ARE
BLOWING
IT.

YOU'RE
A TOTAL
JACKASS,
HIRO.

DON'T YOU
GARS COMPARE
ME TO THAT
USER-HERO AND
HIS ELECTRO-
FEARINESSSS

*What kind
of comparison is
that?*



YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONES WHO
HAVEN'T
SUBMITTED
A BAND NAME
OR SONG LIST
YET.



*What kind
of comparison is
that?*

*They look
like twins*



BUT THEN,
WHY WOULD
I EXPECT
ANYTHING
FROM YOU?

I ALMOST
GOT YOU'RE
TRYING TO
EMBARRASS ME
JUST BECAUSE
I'M ON THE
ORGANIZATION
COMMITTEE.



HOW CAN
WE WHEN
WE'RE STILL
WRITING OUR
SONGS?

WELL, IT'S
TWO MORE
DAYS OR
NO DICE,
FRDO.



BESIDES,
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN, NO BAND
NAME? WE'RE
CALLED "GENIUS
OUTCAST
WISDOM AND
HIS PRECIOUS
SERVANT."

NO WAY!
HAVING SUCH
A CAREER-
MIND LITTLE
SISTER MAKES
A BIG BROTHER
WEEP WITH
PRIDE...



ON SECOND
THOUGHT,
HOW ABOUT
"GREAT GENIUS
SHUNICHI
SHINDOU AND
THE FOULING
PRIMATE"?

UM, EXCUSE ME,
BUT THERE MUST BE
SOME CONFUSION.
THIS ELECTRONICS
DUO HAS ONE
COMMANDER--IT'S
CHIEF GONSMETER,
LYRICIST, AND
LEAD SINGER.

"DREAMS ARE
NOT FOR
UNDERSTANDING..."

...THEY
EXIST TO
ENCOURAGE
EXPANDING
YOUR LIFE."

So what if
I missed it...

...the
author
was
trying to
say...

...the
importance
of feelings
of love...

Warning:
No Play Error

I'VE BEEN
ON THIS
PLANET
FOR
18 YEARS
AND I'VE
NEVER
HAD
TRUER
THOUGHTS
THAN
THESE.

...is like
a cow
noticing
the flies

click

IT'S NOT
SYNCHING
UP?

WHY?

HOWEVER...

AAAAGHHHHHHH!



...THE ROAD TO OUR
DREAMS EXPOSES...

...TREACHERY.



YOUR
BROTHER IS
A COUPLE OF
RICE BALLS
SHORT OF A
BOX LUNCH,
MAIKO.

You got
that
right...

THAT DUDE
SCREAMING
IN THIRD
PERIOD
MUST BE
TOTALLY
NACKO.

Yeah...



I FAIL TO
SEE THE
ADVANTAGES.

HEY,
LITTLE
SHINGOU
GIG!



CAN WE TALK
ABOUT SOMETHING
ELSE? IT'S BAD
ENOUGH I HAVE
TO LIVE WITH THE
LITTLE WORM.

HA
HA
HA
HA

I HEARD HIM
GO OUTSIDE!
ALL THE WAY
ON THE
FOURTH
FLOOR!

I BET THEY
HEARD IT
ALL THE WAY
DOWN IN THE
PRINCIPAL'S
OFFICE.
HE'S SO
BUTTER!

TAKE A CHILL
PILL. THE FACT
THAT HE'S OFF
HIS ROCKER
MAKES HIM
COOL. I WISH I
HAD A BIG BED
LIKE THAT.

Yeah,
Totally ♡



Glamorous!



YOU'RE SO
LUCKY, MAKO.
BECAUSE YOU'RE
SHINGOU'S
SISTER, YOU GET
TO HANG OUT
WITH NAKANO.
HE'S HOT!

SERIOUSLY,
YOU WANT
TO TRADE
LIVES? I'M
GAMB.

It's so
weird!



SORRY TO
INTERRUPT
YOUR
LUNCH.

Oh, wow.
It's Hoshino
Nakano!

MS. TALENT-
SHOW-
COMMITTEE-
ORGANIZER-
TYPE
PERSON!

Is
that guy
a genius?

ABOUT GRAVITATION TRACK 1

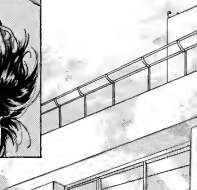
I wanted to create a story about troubled boys--that was my motive for developing GRAVITATION.

One of the difficulties of writing Track 1 was the fact that I had absolutely no time to do everything I wanted to do, like establish Shuchi's character properly. Here was my, once I got him out of the story's ending, too-much-of-a-good-guy character. In my first attempt at giving Shuchi life, he turned out to be a conservative, creepy boy. I started him off in pain and ended the story with him falling. It was really quite depressing. Good thing I finished that first draft, don't you think? He's more fun as a lovable loserhead... But the more I drew out his history side, the more he ended up being a fool, so that ended up being a problem too.

On the other hand, he's an extremely straight and narrow guy. I'll bet his DNA strands are straight, just like his hair. I'm sure in a previous life he was a tall for tree.

It's fun for me to draw a normal, decent guy. I'd like him to continue living his life with integrity to be able simply grow up and enjoy life. You are our confidant. You are the straight and sure path of my life. So with those feelings, I'm gonna make him do even more stupid stuff. Yeah!





A black and white manga panel showing a young man with dark hair lying down, looking upwards with a thoughtful expression.

THIS SCHOOL THING IS JUST PEANUTS BY COMPARISON.

I HAVE A BIG NEXT MONTH, OPENING THE SHOW AT A REAL CONCERT.

A black and white manga panel showing the same young man sitting up in bed, looking towards the right with a surprised expression.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT THE TALENT SHOW ANYWAY?

YOU MEAN EIGHT.

IF YOU FALL SEVEN TIMES, GET UP SIX.

A black and white manga panel showing a close-up of the young man's face. He has a thoughtful or slightly annoyed expression, with his hand near his chin.

HOW COME YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, SHUICHI?

A black and white manga panel showing the young man and a young woman with long hair sitting on a bed. The woman is looking at the man, who is looking away.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

I JUST THINK IT'S KIND OF PATHETIC THAT THE ONLY PERSON YOU HAVE TO CHEER YOU UP IS YOUR LITTLE ONTSE.

A large black and white manga panel showing the young man sitting on the floor, looking down with a sad or thoughtful expression.

...BUT AT THE SAME TIME, SPENDING YOUR LIFE STARING AT A COMPUTER SCREEN SEEMS LIKE A WASTE.

I THINK IT'S AWESOME THAT YOU'RE SO PASSIONATE ABOUT MUSIC...



JUST BECAUSE YOUR LIFE REVOLVES AROUND YOUR BOYFRIEND, DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD DO.

WHAT ABOUT MIKI, THAT GIRL IN MY CLASS? SHE'S A BIG FAN OF YOURS.



A bit strange, perhaps.

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE UGLY OR NOTHING.



DON'T MAKE FUN OF HIM. WHAT'S IT MATTER TO YOU?

THE GUY'S A HUGG.

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN HIM? CLASS PRESIDENT OR NO, HE'S STILL A HUGG.



YOU'RE ALL, "TECHNO MUSIC IS MY LIFE. I HAVE NO TIME FOR GIRLS. I'M AN ARTIST."

AND WHO ARE YOU TO CALL SOMEONE A HUGG? AT LEAST HE'S GOT TIME FOR GIRLS. YOU'RE TOO SELF-ABSORBED.





Wow,
nice
dream.

EVEN
SO...

YOU HAVE
A WARPED
IMAGINATION.

WHEN I HIT
THE BIG TIME,
I'M GONNA LIVE
IN A BIG MANSION
AND COAST BY ON
MY PAST GLORIES,
'CAUSE I'M
GENIUS AND
STUFF.



THAT WAS
A LONG WAY
AROUND TO
GIVE ME A
COMPLIMENT...

IMPRESSIVE,
WASN'T IT?



...I THINK IF
YOU STICK
WITH YOUR
PLAN, YOUR
TIME WILL
COME.

THEY SAY
FAILURE
IS THE
SEED OF
SUCCESS.



OR
SOMETHING.



SO,
TOMORROW
AT 10,
OKAY?

GOOD
JOB,
SHUNCHI.

FEEL
FREE TO
TAKE OFF
EARLY.

OKAY.



NAH,
THEY'RE
REALLY
EASYGOING.
THEY'RE COOL
WITH IT.

ARE YOU
SURE YOUR
PARENTS DON'T
HAVE A
PROBLEM WITH
YOU ALWAYS
WORKING
SO LATE?



GIRLFRIEND?
WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?
SHINDOU'S IN
A BAND!

DO YOU HAVE
A GIRLFRIEND
WITH
EXPENSIVE
TASTE OF
SOMETHING?

FINE BY
ME. YOU'RE
A HARD
WORKER.



HEY, MAN,
I RESPECT
A GUY WHO
PURSUES HIS
DREAMS.

AMATEUR?!
I'M
BETTER
THAN THAT!

GRRRR!

WORD ON THE
STREET IS HE'S
PRETTY GOOD
FOR AN
AMATEUR...

REALLY?
THAT'S NEWS
TO ME!
YOU A ROCK 'N'
ROLL STAR,
SHUCHI?

I only
dig
his fashion

I'M TOTALLY
ON YOUR
SIDE...



...AND I'LL BE
FIRST IN LINE
TO BUY YOUR
RECORD.



OH, COME
ON, DON'T
YOU ALREADY
HAVE A TON OF
GROUPIES?

NOPE.



FINE FOR
YOU TO SAY,
BUT I WISH
I COULD
MEET A GIRL
WHO FELT
THE SAME
WAY.



ALL YOU
FIND HANGING
AROUND A DARK
PARK AT NIGHT
ARE GHOSTS.

I hope not...

MAN, THIS
WAY MAY BE
A SHORTCUT,
BUT IT SURE IS
DARK...AND
EMPTY.



MAYBE
MAKO'S
RIGHT AND I
DO NEED A
GIRLFRIEND.

SIGH.

I TRY TO STAY
FOCUSED.
SOMETIMES
IT'S HARD.
I NEED MORE
THAN MY
SISTER AND
MY FRIENDS, I
NEED SOMEONE
WHO
REALLY
UNDER-
STANDS
ME...





COMP-
TONG
LIKE
THAT?

I GUESS
IT WOULD
FEEL KINDA
GOOD TO
HEAR THAT
FROM
A GIRL.

MAYBE
I SHOULD
GET HIRO
TO GET ME
UP WITH
ONE OF HIS
FRIENDS...

HA...



CHOOO!

MAN, IT'S
PRETTY
COLD.

WHOA,
MY
LYRICS...
HEY!

Sniff

Author

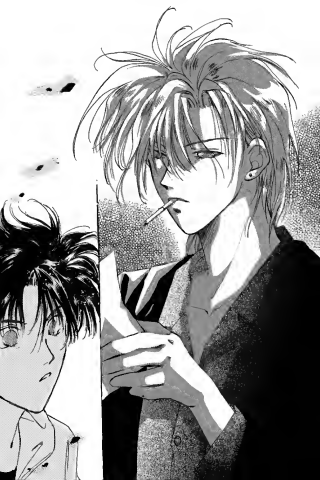
COME
BACK
HERE...

"CHHHHHH
THIS IS THE
SWEETEST,
MOST
FABULOUS
POEM I'VE
EVER READ,
SHUICHI-KUN."

"YOU'RE SO
ROMANTIC!
YOU CAN DO
ANYTHING!
I BELIEVE
IN YOU A
HUNDRED
PERCENT!"









W-WHAT THE--!! THAT DUDE IS
 DESTROYING MY LIVES!! AND HE'S
 GONNA SEE HOW LONG THEY
 ARE... BUT WAIT A MINUTE. WHAT
 THE HELL'S A FOREIGNER DOING
 HANGING AROUND HERE IN THE
 MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...? MAYBE
 HE'S ONE OF THOSE SHADY
 CHARACTERS LIKE ON TV AND
 HE'S GONNA BEAT ME UP AND
 TAKE MY GNOES...





IF I WERE
YOU, I'D
CONSIDER
LEARNING
A RELIABLE
TRADE.



YOU
WRITE LIKE
YOU'RE AT
A THIRD-
GRADE
READING
LEVEL.

IS THIS
DRIVE
REALLY YOUR
IDEA OF A
LOVE SONG?
ARE YOU
NUTS?

Father



WHA--?!

IS IT
POSSIBLE
THIS GUY
COULD BE
RIGHT?





HEY, GIRLS!
YOU GOT A
SECOND?

Hey, it's
Mitsuru!

Oh?
You
want
it?



WE SHOULD
SEE IT, IF FOR
NO OTHER
REASON THAN
TO GET AN
IDEA OF WHAT
IT'S LIKE.

Don't
forget?

OKAY, BUT
SOMEONE
IS GOING TO
HAVE TO TAKE
MY PLACE.

SERIOUSLY,
ON A DAY LIKE
THIS, WITH ALL
THAT'S GOING ON,
A CLASSROOM IS
THE ABSOLUTE
LAST PLACE I
WANNA BE.



It's them!
It's them!



WE'VE GOT
A BIT OF A
PROBLEM.
MAYBE
YOU
CAN
HELP.

ME AND
HIROSHI WANT
TO BE ALONE,
BUT OUR FREE
PERIOD IS
ALMOST OVER.
I DON'T WANT
TO WASTE IT.



Hihi
hihihi

Hihihihihihi



WOULD YOU
MIND WATCHING
THE FRONT
DESK FOR
ME WHILE WE
MAKE SOME
ORCHESTRAL
HANDSOME IN
THE DARK?

YES,
YES,
YES! OF
COURSE
WE WILL!

It's the end of the world as we know it...

YEAH, BUT
I HEAR
THEY KEEP
GETTING
HARDER
TO FIND.

**EACH
GENERATION
NEEDS A
NEW KIND
OF RICE.**

DON'T,
HIRE-OO.
NOT HERE

OH
H
H
H

THIS MUST
BE OUR LUCKY
PAY, ER,
SHUCK? IT'S
GOING TO BE
NOTHING BUT
PLEASURE
AND GIN
FROM HERE
ON OUT.

OH,
YEAHHHHH! F

4th Annual School-wide Band Competition

HEY...

WHAT?

SET ME
UP WITH
A CHICK,
WILL YA?

C'MON.
MY LEGS...



OKAY, THIS IS OUR LAST SONG...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, SHUCHI? I THOUGHT TECHNO WAS YOUR INSATIABLE MOTIVATOR?

W H O A !

EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, A BOY NEEDS A LITTLE LOVIN'.



BUT
SHE'S MY
SISTER...

YOU'RE NOT
ALONE--
YOU'VE GOT
MAIKO.

I'M
NORMALLY
DOWN WITH
THE WHOLE
"THEY CALL US
LONELY WHEN
WE'RE REALLY
JUST ALONE"
THING...

WELL,
YOU'VE GOT
ME TOO,
AND I THINK
YOU'RE
PRETTY
COOL.

--BUT
SOMETIMES
THE NIGHT
SEEMS A
LITTLE LONG
TO REALLY
MAINTAIN MY
BELIEF IN
SLOGANS.

YOU USUALLY
KEEP YOUR
EYE ON THE
PRIZE BETTER
THAN THIS.
YOU NEED
MORE HAPPY
TECHNO,
LESS
DEPECHE
MODE.

Program

WHAT
I'M
TRYING
TO SAY
IS...

You see...

YEAH,
BUT
THAT'S
REALLY
BEYOND
THE
POINT.

COME ON,
SHUNCHI,
YOU'VE GOT
TALENT, AND
YOU GIVE IT
EVERYTHING
YOU HAVE.





YEAH

WE'RE
ENTRY #808!
GENIUS
SHU-CHAN
AND HIS
ELECTRIC
LOVER!!



C'mon, jackass!

WHOOAAAA!
Get on with it!

MY HARD
DRIVE
CRASHED
AND TOOK
OUR TUNES
WITH IT!

WE'RE GONNA
SING OUR
SCHOOL SONG!

C'MON,
SING WITH
ME!!!

OUR ALMA
MATER...

...MAJESTIC
AND GRAND!





I
APPRECIATE
YOUR
UNDER-
STANDING,
MAIKO.

SHE'S
TAKING
IT WELL.

I'D
MURDER
YOU...

You're
matured. Your
big brother is
proud of you.

...BUT
WHAT'S
DONE IS
DONE!

HIROGHI
MADE
ME DO
IT! IT'S
ALL HIS
FAULT!

PLEASE,
LITTLE
SISTER,
YOU HAVE
TO LISTEN
TO ME!!!

OH
NOOOOOO!!!

1
Month
Without
Lunch

I'LL CUT
YOU SOME
SLACK SINCE
YOU'RE THE
ONE BAND
PEOPLE
ENJOYED...

...BUT
YOU'RE
STILL
BEING
PUNISHED!!

YOU SEE,
THERE
WAS THIS
SCARY
GUY...

AND HE
SAW
MY...

YOU WERE
SAYING
SOMETHING
HAPPENED
AFTER WORK
YESTERDAY?
What's up?

SPEAKING
OF, I
TOTALLY
FORGOT...

UMMM
...
WHAT
HE
SAID.

What?

**NO!!
HE SAW
MY
LYRICS!
MY
POEMS!!**

HA?
YOUR
WHAT?

WERE YOU
PEEING IN
PUBLIC AGAIN?

*Did he treat you
disrespectfully?*

I'VE NEVER
SEEN HIM
BEFORE, BUT
HE INSULTED
ME WITHOUT
A SECOND
THOUGHT!

HE TOLD
ME I HAD
NO TALENT
AND THAT
I SHOULD
QUIT.

AND HE
WAS A
TOTAL
ASSHOLE
ABOUT IT
TOO.

YOU DON'T SAY?



YOU WANT
US TO CRY
LIKE LITTLE
BABIES
THE WAY
YOU ARE?

HOW
MUCH
PITY ARE
YOU
LOOKING
FOR?

*sob sob sob
he he he*

GEE,
THANKS
FOR THE
SYMPATHY,
GUYS.



I'M JUST
SAVING HE
DIDN'T HAVE
TO BE SO
MEAN, IS
ALL.

I'M GLAD
TO SEE YOU SO
FULL OF
SELF-CONFIDENCE,
BIG BROTHER.

HEY!
I'M
SELF-
CONFIDENT!
I'M JUST
NOT STUCK-
UP ABOUT
IT!

*Just. Need
someone to
change your
attitude?*

IS THIS YOUR
HIDEAWAY
PHASE?
YOU'RE
LETTING
SOMETHING AS
DUMB AS THAT
DEPRESS
YOU?





The story continues





I DON'T
KNOW.
DOESN'T
SOUND LIKE
ANY OF OUR
REGULARS.

DYED BROWN
HAIR? AND
TALL? IN A
DARK SUIT?



LET IT GO.
YOU DON'T
EVEN KNOW
HIS NAME.



NO,
SOMEONE
LIKE THAT
I'D
REMEMBER.

HE HAD A
SCARY FACE,
LIKE THIS!
YOU SURE
YOU HAVEN'T
SEEN HIM?

GR/RR!



MAYBE
YOU SHOULD
JUST CHALK
IT UP TO BAD
LUCK AND
FORGET
ABOUT IT.

Come on...

YOU REALLY
GOT A BEEP
WITH THIS
DUDE, EH,
SHUNICHI?

(Fire)

NO WAY!
I'M GONNA
FIND HIM,
NO MATTER
WHAT!!

Hey,
Shunichi!

I CAN'T.

WHY?

LIKE YOU
SAID, HE'S
SOMEONE
YOU
REMEMBER.

IT'S
JUST...



HE WAS
JUST GO...

HE WAS KIND
OF COOL.



HEY, CAN I
COME SEE
YOUR ROOM?
LET ME SEE!

NAH, I
DON'T
THINK
THAT'S
A GOOD
IDEA...

What?!
Why not?

Princess?

It's a key!

YOU'RE
SUCH A
JERK!
YOU'RE
LATE!

But Shinnosuke

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
WORK
TODAY,
RIGHT?

SORRY.
I'LL CALL
YOU,
OKAY?

You
better!

HE SAID
YOU WANTED
TO BE WITH
A GIRL, AND
I MADE THE
TIME FOR
YOU!

HIRO
TOLD ME
THAT YOU
WERE UP
FOR SOME
ACTION!

NO.

THIS ISN'T
WHAT I'M
LOOKING FOR...

I'M NOT READY
TO GIVE IN TO
SOMETHING SO
WRONG.



THIS ISN'T
FUN.

IT'S
JUST
PRETEND.

PRETEND
ROMANCE.



I GO TO
SCHOOL, I
GO TO WORK,
I PLAY MY
SONGS...

I TAKE EVERY
OPPORTUNITY.

Information later highway



I'M LIKE
ONE OF
THOSE GUYS
WHO SPENDS
ALL HIS TIME
ON THE
INTERNET.

IT'S LIKE
I'M A CRAZY
OLD MAN OR
SOMETHING.

Mumble...

I WANNA
DATE FINE
YOUNG
GIRLS AND
WRITE LOVE
LETTERS
AND GET
LAID!!

NO WAY!!
I'M A
HEALTHY,
NORMAL
18-YEAR-
OLD KID!!

BUT...

WHAT DOES
IT MEAN...

...TO WANT TO
SEE SOMEBODY?



Y'KNOW, YOU
DON'T SEEM
LIKE THE GAME
SHUICHI I SEE
AT SCHOOL.

Sure.

HEY,
SHUICHI.
ARE YOU
EVEN
LISTENING
TO ME?

CRAP.
IT'S
TOTALLY
RAINING.
DID YOU
BRING AN
UMBRELLA?



THAT
MOVIE
WAS
PRETTY
BLAH.



I'D
PREFER IT!
I'D DRINK
THIS SHAKE IN
ONE GULP!

NO! I'M
NEVER
MOODY!
FOR ME,
EVERY DAY
IS LIKE
SUNDAY!

Ha ha
ha! Dude,
you crack
me up!



ARE YOU
BEING
MOODY?
OR ARE
YOU JUST
QUIET?

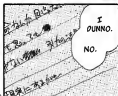
UH...



YEAH,
TOTALLY!
YOU'RE LIKE
A POET OR
SOMETHING!
YOU'RE LIKE
A REAL
MUSICIAN!

YOU
MEAN
IT?

WHAT'S THIS
STUFF? "DESTINY
IS UNSTOPPABLE."
I'VE TRIED
LAUGHTER, I'VE
TRIED TEARS, BUT
IT ALWAYS
OVERPOWERS ME.
ARE THESE
LYRICS?



IT'S NOT
LIKE...

I
DUNNO.

NO.

UML, YEAH,
FOR MY
BAND...

IT'S NO
GOOD.

YOU WROTE
THESE? THESE
ARE SO DEEP!
YOU'RE
AWESOME!

...I WANT TO
SEE HIM...



...WHEN ONE
OF THOSE
THINGS THAT
HAPPENS TO
PEOPLE AT
TWO IN THE
MORNING
HAPPENED
TO ME.



REALLY?
WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH IT?
I THINK IT'S
GOT TOTAL
SOUL.

I USED
TO THINK
SO,
BUT I
CHANGED
MY
MIND...



Hmm...

A GHOST?
YEAH...
SOMETHING
LIKE
THAT.

NAH,
FORGET
IT.



MAYBE I'M
DELUSIONAL.

French Fry

I DON'T
REALLY
WANT
TO SEE
HIM.



WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT? DID
YOU MEET
A GHOST OR
SOMETHING?

*Yeah,
right.*



Hahh hahh,
what ever.



WHY...





DESTINY IS UNSTOPPABLE...

BAM

That was close

WAZZA

WAZZA!

WAZZA

He's lucky



IF YOU
WANNA
COMMIT
SUICIDE, GET
ASSISTANCE
FROM
SOMEONE
ELSE.

DUMSBAGS.

GIVE UP--
LET LIFE
WIN.

track10END



S H U I C H I
S H I N D O U

Gravitation



track 2





Whatto
big
house...
Whoo...

HERE'S A
TOWEL DRY
YOURSELF
OFF.

THANKS...

I
APPRECIATE
IT.



IS THE
INTERRO-
GATION
OVER?
I THINK
IT'S YOU
WHO
OWES ME
ANSWERS.

*It was such
a big thing
for me...*

COME ON,
MAN... YOU
REMEMBER
...

あ
つ
さ
り
P E N I E R !

WHAT
ARE YOU
BABBLING
ABOUT?

EITHER
WAY, IT'S
A LOSER
THING TO
DO.

ARE YOU
TRYING TO KILL
YOURSELF, OR
WERE YOU
JUST TRYING
TO GET MY
ATTENTION?

WHATEVER,
GUDE.
SHUICHI...
LOSER...SAME
DIFFERENCE.

I'M
NOT A
LOSER!!

I'M
SHUICHI
SHINDOU
!!



THANKS
A LOT.
BASTARD.

SOUNDS LIKE
YOU TAKE
EVERYTHING
PERSONALLY,
THOUGH.

HEH.
YOU
DON'T SEEM
DELICATE
ENOUGH
TO GO FOR
A SYLVIA
PLATH-
STYLE
FINISH.



I JUST--

IT'S--



IS THAT IT?
CONTRIVE A
TRAGEDY,
MAKE US
LEGENDS?

I
DIDN'T
MEAN
TO...

COULD IT
BE YOU
WANTED
TO MAKE A
KILLER OUT
OF ME?



HEH.



THAT'S
ALL...

I-I JUST
WANTED TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN.



WHATEVER
I DID, YOU
TOOK IT
PRETTY
SERIOUSLY.

POOR
PITIFUL
POP
STAR.

I SEE...

Why
am I so
unlucky?

SAY WHAT?



YOU JUST
SAID YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW...

YOUR
LYRICS
WERE
FORGET
AWFUL.
THEM, BUT
THEN MY
MEMORY
WAKES UP
SCREAMING.

...WHAT
I WAS
TALKING
ABOUT...



I LIED,
YOU
MORON.



QUIT TELLING ME
HOW MUCH I SUCK!
**GOD
DAMN IT!**
YOU DON'T NEED
TO REMIND ME!

BECAUSE
OF YOU, I
DON'T GET
TO EAT
LUNCH FOR
A WHOLE
MONTH!

IF YOU
SUCK, YOU
SUCK. THAT'S
NOT MY
FAULT.



SOMEONE HAS
TO TELL YOU THE
TRUTH, MAN.
IT'S NOT LIKE I
GET A CHARGE
OUT OF IT.

IS IT YOUR
HABIT TO GO
AROUND TRASH-
TALKING PEOPLE
YOU'VE NEVER
EVEN MET?!

And why are you Goddamn it
so loud, huh?
You're the hero of this comic!
You're cramping my style!





I CAN SEE YOU
IN WAYS YOU
WON'T LET
YOURSELF SEE.
YOU'VE GOT
ZERO TALENT.
TRUST ME.

LOOK AT YOU.
NO WONDER
YOU WROTE
SUCH PUTRID
DRIVEL. YOU'RE
WAY TOO
CAUGHT UP
IN YOUR
OWN TRIP.



GO HOME,
CRYBABY,
BEFORE YOU
PISS ME OFF
EVEN MORE.

I NEVER
SHOULD HAVE
BROUGHT YOU
HERE.

THIS...

BECAUSE IF
YOU GET IN
FRONT OF ME
AGAIN, I'LL HIT
YOU AND THEN
BACK UP OVER
YOU FOR GOOD
MEASURE.

**THIS
CAN'T BE
HAPPENING...**

IF YOU
DON'T WANT TO
KILL YOURSELF,
YOU SHOULD
PROBABLY STAY
AWAY FROM
MERCEDES
SLF'S AND SAAB
CABRIOLETS.

BECAUSE I'M
A GOOD GUY,
I HAVE ONE
MORE PIECE
OF ADVICE.





AND THEN WHAT?
YOU SHOWED HIM
WHAT A MAN YOU
WERE, BUT HE KEPT
COMING! YOU
STRUGGLED
MIGHTILY, BUT HE
OVERPOWERED YOU!
AND THEN HE DID
XXX TO YOU AND
THEN XXX AND A
LITTLE MORE XXX,
AND FINALLY HE
XXX'D YOU, RIGHT?
AM I RIGHT?

**Knock
it
off!!!**



OH, NO!
HELP ME,
SHUICHI!

*You guys
totally suck!*

*Don't worry,
it's only scary in the
beginning. See, you'll
start to feel better soon.*



HEH HEH
HEH SHHHH!
DON'T
GUESS. I'LL
BE GENTLE.

*Grrr.
goddammit!*



HE LOOKS LIKE
A COOL GUY,
BUT THEN YOU
GET TO KNOW
HIM! HE'S A
TOTAL FAKE!

WHY WOULD
I WANT THAT
TO HAPPEN?
THAT GUY'S
SUCH A TOTAL
ASSHOLE!



WELL, LEMME TELL YOU!

HEY!

I KNOW YOU GUYS WANT TO TURN ME GAY, BUT...

THAT SON OF A BITCH...

crunch

I KNOW YOU
GUYS WANT
TO TURN ME
GAY, BUT...

THAT
SON
OF A
BITCH...

— *crunch* —

sob sob
ぽたぽた

ぐちゃぐちゃ
ぐちゃぐちゃ

NNMPH...

STOP! WAIT!

How did he do that?

NOW THAT IT'S SINKING IN, HE MUST FEEL SO CHEAP.

POOR GUY.

Aaaaa ghhhhh!
Dammit!

POOR
GUY.

A speech bubble from a character, likely the one in the previous panel, containing the text: "Aaaaaa ghhhhh! Dammit!"

Life
sucks...

LIFE
SUCKS.

I CAN
BARELY
THINK
STRAIGHT...

EVEN
THOUGH IT
WON'T STOP
CLIPPING
FOR ME...

THE SHOW
MUST GO ON.

SNAP OUT
OF IT.
YOU'RE ON
THE LAST
SONG.

THAT
BASTARD
SUPER-
JINKEO
ME.

slam

OF COURSE,
IT HAD TO
BE THAT
SONG.

**I'LL
SHOW HIM!
I STILL
HAVE FOUR
DAYS!
I'LL MAKE
IT!!**

**NO NO NO NO
NO! I'M GONNA
MAKE THIS A
GREAT SONG!
THAT DUDE WAS
A TOTAL
POSEUR, AND
I DON'T CARE
WHAT HE SAYS.**

**OKAY, THE
MELODY...**
tré táká
táka táka
doko doko
down, y
GAH!

**MAYBE
I SHOULD
JUST CHUCK
IT. I'VE
LOST THE
PLOT.**

**SHUCHI!
HIROCHI IS
HERE!**

adidas

**Don't bang on
the keys!**

**HA HA
HA!**

**I-IT'S
NICKED
AWESOME.
HEH HEH.**

**HEY, MAN.
I THOUGHT
WE COULD
PRACTICE.**

**ONLY FOUR
DAYS TO GO.
HOW'S THE
SET LIST
SHAPING UP?**



I KNOW YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO PROVE, BUT IF YOU CAN'T MAKE A GOOD SONG OUT OF 'EM, YOU SHOULD LET 'EM GO...

HEY, AREN'T THESE THE LYRICS YOUR LOVER PLAGGED ON?



I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE THE ELECTRONIC SPINAL TAP.

I SUPPOSE IF WE HAVE TO FILL TIME WE CAN IMPROVISE.



JILTED? WHAT HAPPENED TO, "I RESPECT YOU, SHUICH!" AND "YOU CAN DO IT, SHUICH!"?!

SHUT UP!!

A JAM SESSION?!

THAT MIGHT BE OKAY FOR SOME GADGACK INDIE BAND...

...BUT LABEL REPS ARE GOING TO BE THERE! ASK IS PERFORMING! DON'T SCREW THIS UP 'CAUSE YOU GOT JILTED!



IMPORTANT
PEOPLE ARE
GOING TO
HEAR US!
WE HAVE
TO BE IN
TOP SHAPE!

That
means no
breast
pump
therapy!

what the-hell?



MMPH
NMMPH
MMPH.

pillow



YOU DO
REALIZE THE
PALLADIUM
HOLDS THREE
HUNDRED
PEOPLE, DON'T
YOU? WHAT
ARE WE
GONNA DO?

ASK IF
SUPPOSEDLY ON
THE VERGE OF
A DEAL WITH A
MAJOR RECORD
LABEL! THE
PLACE IS GOING
TO BE CRAWLING
WITH SUITS.



Get off
me!

A
G
H
A
H
A
H

SHUT UP,
YOU
JERKWADES!

DO YOU HAVE ANY
IDEA WHAT TIME
IT IS?! KNOCK
THAT CRAP OFF!

IS THAT
SOME KIND
OF PILLOW-
BITER JOKE?!

C'mon, c'mon,
c'mon!

So po



IT'S PAST MIDNIGHT!
CUT OUT
THE MALE
BONDING!

DON'T
YOU TWO
LOVEBIRDS
HAVE A
CONCERT TO
PRACTICE
FOR?



I don't
believe
you two.





IT'S LATE,
SHUNCHI.
DOESN'T
NAKANO
HAVE SCHOOL
IN THE
MORNING?

YOU'RE
HERE TOO,
MAIKO?
WHAT ARE
YOU
WEARING?

Omigod...



ARE YOU
SERIOUS?

OH, YOU
READ
MAIKO AND
BIRI YUKI'S
BOOKS,
SHUNCHI?
I LOVE HIS
STORIES.
YOU'RE JUST
ONE OF THE
GIRLS!

♡

♡
HIS LAST
SCENES ARE
ALWAYS
TEARJERKERS.

♡

THAT
GUY'S A
NOVELIST?!

WHAT
?!





THANK
YOU,
MR. YUKI.

THAT'S
VERY
GENEROUS.



MAYBE AN
INJECTION
OF A LITTLE
CHERE WILL
DO SOME
GOOD.

ANYHOW,
TAKE IT AND
SEE FOR
YOURSELF.

YEAH, WELL...
EVERYONE
NEEDS A
CHANGE OF
FACE.

OH, MY.
A HAPPY
ENDING?
AREN'T YOU
SCARED
YOUR
READERS
WILL BE
SHOCKED?



YOU GOT
A PROBLEM
WITH
THAT?

OF
COURSE
NOT.

THANK YOU
FOR THE
MANUSCRIPT.



A CHANGE
OF FACE,
BH?

ARE YOU
HERE TO SEE
MR. YUKI?

You
scared me.

What?

OH...

No problem.
Did you get the
manuscript?

Thanks for
waiting

I-
TAKE
IT
EASY?

MMH...

WHY
SHOULD I
TAKE IT
EASY ON A
BRAT LIKE
HIM?

I ONLY
WENT
TEN DAYS
OVER THE
DEADLINE,
AND SHE
EDITORS
HAVE
BRING
OF
DEATH.

AND SHE
ACTED
LIKE IT'S
THE END
OF THE
WORLD.

YOU SEEM
TIRED, MR.
YUKI. TRY TO
TAKE IT EASY,
OKAY?

Excuse me...



WELCOME,
SHUCHI
SHINDOU.



WHAT'S IT TO
YOU? I FIGURED
MY RUGGED
REVENGE
MADE MY
PROFESSION
QUITE CLEAR.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU'RE
GONE
BIG-GOT
NOVELIST.



REALLY.

THAT'S NICE.
I'M GLAD I
COULD INSPIRE
SUCH AN ACT
OF JUVENILE
DELINQUENCY.



SO, WHAT?
YOU
SKIPPED
SCHOOL
TODAY?

OH,
UH,
YEAH...

SPILL
GOLD
SPRINKLES



BY GIVING
THOSE
CRUMMY
LYRICS OF
YOURS,
AREN'T
YOU?

ON
THE
MIST

I BET YOU
HAVE SOME
CHIP ON YOUR
SHOULDER AND
YOU'RE GOING
TO TRY TO
PROVE ME
WRONG...

YOU REALLY
ARE QUITE
SIMPLE-MINDED
AND STUPID,
AREN'T YOU?

Ha ha ha!

It's easy.



YOU'D THINK
NOW THAT YOU
KNOW I'M A
WRITER, MY
OPINION THAT
YOU HAVE NO
TALENT WOULD
CARRY MORE
WEIGHT.

BUT NO,
NOT YOU. YOU'D
RATHER GET
ON STAGE AND
INFECT EVERYONE
WITH YOUR BANAL
POETRY.

I LIKE YOU.
I'LL GO TO
YOUR
CONCERT.

YOU'RE FUNNY.
FUNNY HA-HA
AND FUNNY
QUEER.

JUST GO ON
YOUR DATE.
SHE'S YOUR
GIRLFRIEND,
RIGHT?



WHO KNOWS?
YOUR SINGING
MAY EVEN BE
MORE ENJOYABLE
THAN LISTENING
TO THAT AIRHEAD
YAMMER AT ME.

DON'T
COME.

F-
FORGET
IT.

WHAT WAS
I THINKING?

WHA...?

DID I THINK I
NEEDED THOSE
THINGS TO
SUCCEED?

DID I WANT HIS
SUPPORT OR HIS
ENCOURAGEMENT?

NOW THAT
I THINK
OF IT...

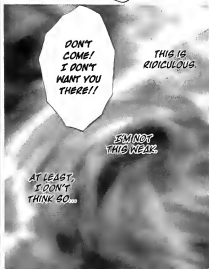
I'VE GOT A
SHOW TO DO,
I WOULDN'T
EVEN NOTICE
IF YOU WERE
AROUND.

...I COULDN'T
CARE LESS IF
YOU'RE THERE
OR NOT.



ABOUT GRAVITATION TRACK 2

Compared to Track 1, the story line for Track 2 is unfolding at a decidedly fast pace. But this is only the beginning. The real fun is just starting. I think the key to this chapter is not to rush through suffering as it was being able to draw Eri Yuki moving around. I'm happy about that. If I didn't put as much work into Shichi, I'm sorry. There's a little bit of regret poured into this chapter. The character of Eri is unfathomable to the outsider. He's a good example of someone who is "unpredictable." It's like having a blow dryer inside a freezer, a walking contradiction. A flying gravel path. Number 1 on the list of "people who would most surprise you if they really existed." But I really like the character of Eri. He's got a mean mouth, a bad attitude. About the only good things about him are his looks and his intelligence. Guys like him really want to see their suffer. Is that wrong of me? I have a thing for teasing little boys like Shichi, but it's different because I get a thrill out of punishing guys like Eri. I guess it's a little bad.





WE'RE
PLANNING
TO RELEASE
THEIR
DEBUT
ALBUM ON
OUR LABEL
NEXT YEAR.

YES,
THAT'S
RIGHT.

THEY HAVE
A LOT OF TALENT,
AND WE'RE
EXPECTING GREAT
THINGS FROM
THEM. THEY'RE
ABSOLUTELY
RADIO FRIENDLY.

WE'VE GOT A
LOT OF MONEY
RIDING ON THEM.
IF THESE GUYS
DON'T SHIFT
MAJOR UNITS,
IT COULD SPELL
DISASTER.



THIS IS
WHERE YOUR
INVALUABLE
TALENT
COMES IN,
SEBUCHI.

I WANT YOU
TO PRODUCE
THEIR ALBUM.



WHAT
DO YOU
SAY?





OF COURSE.
I'LL GET UP
SOME FACE
TIME...

SOUNDS
INTERESTING.

OF COURSE,
I'LL HAVE TO
SEE THEM
FOR MYSELF
BEFORE I
DECIDE.

OH, NO
NEED FOR
THAT.

ASK ARE
PLAYING
TOMORROW
NIGHT AT THE
PALLADIUM,
AREN'T THEY?

I'D LIKE TO
SEE THEIR
CHOPS LIVE.





IT'S NO BIG
DEAL, JUST
A SHORT
CAR RIDE.

WHAT?

BUT...THAT
SEEMS LIKE SUCH
A LONG WAY FOR
YOU TO GO FOR
NOTHING. LET ME
SET UP A MEET
AND GREET FOR
AFTERWARDS...



BESIDES, YOU
SEE THE BEST
AND WORST IN AN
ARTIST WHEN
THEY'RE UP ON
STAGE.



FOR ME, IT'S
NOT A MATTER
OF GOOD OR
BAD, OR EVEN IF
THEY'RE NICE
GUYS. IT COMES
DOWN TO
ABILITY.

YOU'LL
HAVE TO
TRUST ME.
IT'S HOW
I WORK.





NAH, MR.
SEGUCHI, THIS
IS JUST THE
OPENING ACT.

OH, HAS IT
STARTED
ALREADY?

THEY'RE
RATHER
POPULAR
LOCALLY,
BUT JUST
AMATEURS.

THEY LOOK
LIKE LITTLE
KIDS. ARE
THEY IN HIGH
SCHOOL?

ARE YOU
READY TO
ROCK?!

THEN PLEASE
WELCOME...
BAD LUCK!





ROCK ON!
IT'S
SHINDOU,
TOUHOKU
HIGH'S
VILLAGE
IDIOT!

NAKANO!
YOU'RE
DIVINE!

Who's
that?



AAAAGHH!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING,
SHUICHI?!

THE
INTRO'S
OVER!
WAKE UP,
DUMBASS!!

WHAT I
REALLY
WANT...



"DO YOUR BEST."



"DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL BE FINE."

DAMN...

I CAN'T
BELIEVE HE
SHOWED UP
ANYWAY.

I TOLD
HIM
NOT TO
COME...

click





SORRY, HIRO, BUT NOW'S THE TIME.



DESTINY IS UNDENIABLE...

sonia ASR



LIKE GRAVITY,
INDESCRIPTABLE...

DIFFER-
ENT...

...BUT STILL
CRAP. I'M
NEVER
WRONG.



BUT
THEY'RE
STILL JUST
KIDS.

THEY'RE
GOING TO
HAVE TO
STRUGGLE
A LITTLE
MORE TO BE
SOMETHING.

*Please
give it up
for Band
Leader!*



THAT
BOY...
THE
GINGER.

HIS BEATS
ARE A LITTLE
OFF, BUT HE
HAS A GOOD
VOICE. GOOD
ENERGY.

YOU HAVE TO BE
A BIT TOUGHER,
SAKANO. YOUR
EARS ARE STILL
TOO KIND.





YEAR...
SURE.

SORRY, CAN
I BORROW
YOUR CELL
PHONE,
SAKANO?

HAS I JUST
SEEN
THINGS?



YOU MADE
THOSE ASK
GUYS LOOK
LIKE A HIGH
SCHOOL
JAZZ BAND!

*I even
stopped the
encore!*

YEAHHHHH!

YOU
DUDES
ROCKED
MY LAME
ASS!



C'MON!
GIRL
YUKI!

WHERE'S
GIRL
YUKI?



UH... HE
LEFT.

OH,
THAT
GUY.



OH,
UH...

...THANKS
...

YOU'RE A
SUPERSTAR,
BIG
BROTHER!

SO, WHERE
IS HE?!
WHERE IS
HE?!

WHO?

WHAT?!

I WANTED TO
GET AN AUTOGRAPH
AND SHAKE HIS
HAND AND TAKE A
PICTURE WITH HIM
AND JUST ABOUT
ANYTHING ELSE!

WHY DID HE
LEAVE?!
WHAT DID
YOU DO? I
HATE YOU,
SHUICHI!!

You cheated me!
I never should
have come!

So now
it's my fault?

SHUT UP!
WHY DON'T
YOU GIVE
ME A
HAND OR
SOMETHING?!

WHY
ARE YOU
SUSPIC-
ING?

I DUNNO,
HE MUST
BE OUT
BACK.

HEY,
WHERE'S
HIROSHI?

HIS
BROTHER
LENT US
HIS CAR TO
HAUL OUR
STUFF.

I HAVE
TO GO
AND
THANK
EVERY-
BODY.

Now we're
done.

IN FACT, I
HAD A LOT
OF THINGS
I WANTED
TO TALK TO
HIM ABOUT
TOO...

HEY, I
DIDN'T
DO
ANYTHING.

.....
What?

61034



YOUR MUSIC
HAPPENS TO
INCONVENIENCE
A LOT OF
PEOPLE.

YOU SHOULD
GROVEL
MORE.

OH,
YEAH.

WE SHOULD
BE
GRATEFUL.



WELL,
I CAN'T
HELP IT.

IF I EVER MAKE
IT, I'LL GET MY
ROADIES TO LUG
MY GEAR, OKAY?



IT'S
PROBABLY
JUST HIRO.

HEY, IT
MIGHT BE
BIRI YUKI!
LET'S GO!

Don't
running that
around
to eat
800,000
you.

What?
Really?
?

Yaaaaaa!
Beeee!
Yeeeeeeeeee!

**SHUT
IT.**

YOU
SHOULD
TRY
MAKING
IT BIG
BEFORE
YOU TALK
BIG.

HEY,
IS THE
OPENING
ACT STILL
HERE?!

SOMEONE'S
CALLING
FOR
YOU!

Okay!

ハルヲ



HELLO, IT'S
NICE TO
MEET YOU.

YOU MUST
BE BAD
LUCK?



OOOPS.

DUH.
FORGIVE
ME.



Whoa,
what's
that?

UH...
Yeah,
we are.

AND
YOU
ARE...?



SE--

TOHMA
SEGUCHI
?!

Who's
Seguchi?



SEGUCHI...
YOU MEAN,
THAT
SEGUCHI?
THE PURE
FROM NO
PRODUCTIONS
?! *Yes, the
same.*



Hello

THAT
WOULD
BE ME.

NICE TO
MEET YOU.
WELL...



MY NAME
IS TOHMA
SEGUCHI.

SINCE WE'RE
TRADING NAMES,
CARE TO TELL
ME YOURS, MR.
LEAD SINGER?

MAYBE
THIS IS...

DON'T BE
SO NERVOUS,
MR. SHINDOU.

I'M
SHINDOU!
SHUICHI
SHINDOU!

COULD
THIS
BE...?!

I JUST
WANT TO
CHAT WITH
YOU.

NO BIG
DEAL.

track2 END



E I R I Y U K I

Gravitation



track 3

...SCOUTED?

...I WAS
WONDERING
IF YOU WERE
FRIENDS WITH
BIRI YUKI.

BASICALLY...

AM I
BEING...

*FADES
OUT...*

I SAW HIM
IN THE
CROWD
TONIGHT...

OR IS HE
FRIENDS
WITH THE
GUITARIST?

...AND HE LEFT
RIGHT AFTER
YOUR BAND
FINISHED.
I THOUGHT
MAYBE YOU
KNEW HIM.



♡ Q & A CORNER ♡

Among the many questions we get, two of the most common are "what are ATM and techno?" Techno is a music genre, the same way that rock and jazz are particular genres of music. Basically, it means music generated by computer, and has often been called "electronica." ATM is an abbreviation for desktop music, meaning created on a desktop. ATM can stand for music created on a synthesizer or computer, whether it's the actual sounds or the composition of a song.





Thank you very much!

What a horrible guy...

SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU. I KNOW YOU MUST BE TIRED AFTER YOUR PERFORMANCE.

YES, THANK YOU. THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO KNOW...

IS THAT ALL...?

WELL, I'LL BE GOING NOW...

SO...

IS BAKI FRIENDS WITH TOMMA SEGUCHI?



SHUICHI!

SHUICHI!! SEGUCHI'S LEAVING...



ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY?!

No problem man.



Sorry, Sakuma. Thanks for waiting.

YOU'VE
GOTTA
MAKE A
MOVE!!

*(Simon,
Simon!)*

I DON'T KNOW
MUCH ABOUT
THESE THINGS,
BUT THAT GUY'S
A BIG SHOT AT
A RECORD
COMPANY,
RIGHT?!

CHANCES
LIKE THIS
DON'T COME
ALONG
EVERY DAY!

IT'S NO
USE,
MARCO...

THAT GUY
DOESN'T
HAVE ANY
INTEREST
IN MY
MUSIC...

WHAT?!

WHAT ARE
YOU AFRAID
OF?!

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THE GUY
WHO WAS
GONNA
TAKE ON
THE
WORLD?!

(Haha, Haha)

It's embarrassing to hear
your heart pounded
back to you...



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!
THIS COULD
BE YOUR BIG
BREAK!!

YOU WERE
GONNA JAM
WITH RYUICHI
SAKAMOTO
AND RECORD
WITH FAYE
WONG...
RIGHT?!

I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
GONNA GO
MULTI-
PLATINUM
AND LIVE IN
A GIANT
MANSION!



DO YOU
WANT TO
BE BIRI
YUKI'S DOG
FOR THE
REST OF
YOUR
LIFE?!



HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

SHUUCHI!

MY NAME IS
SHUICHI SHINDOU.
I'M 18 YEARS OLD!
TOHOKU HIGH
SCHOOL SENIOR
CLASS B, 3RD
YEAR! MY
HOMEROOM
TEACHER IS MR.
TAKUMURA!

Has ASK
returned
to the
dressing
room yet?

I think
they've finished
their anime
already. Shall
we go visit
them now?

Uh...

IF YOU LIKE MY
MUSIC, YOU
SHOULD FEEL
FREE TO GIVE
ME A CALL AND
WE CAN TALK!
MY HOME
NUMBER IS 03--

WHOA!

tripped

IT WAS
A NOBLE
EFFORT,
SHUNCHU!!

YOU
DEFINITELY
MADE AN
IMPRESSION
ON HIM!

BOY
LONDON

...WHY DON'T
YOU TRY GOING
TO CLASS AND
PUTTING A
LITTLE OF THAT
ENERGY INTO
YOUR SCHOOL-
WORK?

OH, MY.
FOR SOMEONE
WHO'S STAYING
HOME SICK
FROM SCHOOL,
YOU'RE VERY
ENERGETIC...

That's one of the
oldest lines in the
parenting book.

Ahh, heck
Mrs. S!

I'LL BET
1000 YEN
THAT'S
NOT ALL HE
REMEMBERS!!

IF NOTHING
ELSE, THOSE
GUYS'LL
REMEMBER
WHAT SCHOOL
WE GO TO!!

YEAH!

BOY
LONDON

WEREN'T
THEY
CALLED
NITTLE
GRABBER?

TOMMA USED
TO PLAY
KEYBOARDS
IN RYUNCHI
SAKUMA'S BAND.
SAKUMA WAS
SOME SINGER.

Yeah,
yeah!

I REMEMBER
YOU WORE
THE GROOVES
OFF YOUR
RECORDS.

YOU COULDN'T
STOP PLAYING
HIS MUSIC,
AND TODAY
YOU MET HIM.

You're so
lucky!

BUT, I
GUESS
WHAT'S
DONE IS
DONE...

Aw, man,
wishes wishes...

SEBUCHI
IS GOOD
FRIENDS WITH
BIRD YUKI.

DONE?
WHAT'S
DONE?!

YUKI MAY
BE A
OUTTHROW,
BUT I'LL
STILL USE
THAT
CONNECTION!

FRIENDS!



WHY DON'T
YOU JUST
TELL HIM
YOU'RE IN
LOVE?

YOU REALLY
HAVE A
THING FOR
THIS GUY,
DON'T YOU?

YOWZA!
BIZI YUKI,
AGAIN?

WE CAN
ASK HIM
TO
INTRODUCE
US...



DON'T GET
HUNG UP ON
ALL THAT
MORALISTIC
SOCIETY
CRAP,
OKAY?

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
IF IT'S
TWO
GUYS.
LOVE IS
LOVE.



AND YOU
WERE PUMPED
UP AT THE
CONCERT
BECAUSE BIZI
YUKI CAME,
WEREN'T
YOU?

YOU DIDN'T
DIG THAT
GIRL I GOT
UP WITH,
DID YOU?





DON'T BE
SO NEGATIVE,
SHINDOU. GUYS
GET TURNED
OFF BY LOW
SELF-ESTEEM.

NO WAY.
HOW COULD
HE?

DON'T BE
A POPE.

HE BLEW OFF
THE GAIL TO
COME SEE YOU
PLAY, SO HE
MUST LIKE YOU
MORE THAN
HER.

shump



ONLY
YOU
WOULD
CHOOSE
SOMEBODY
FOR A
KISS...

I'LL EVEN
TONGUE
YOU FOR
10,000
YEN.

YOU
WORRIED
ABOUT
KISSING?
YOU CAN
PRACTICE
ON ME!



I wouldn't
call this
normal
either.

First one
to turn
away
loses.

Is that
all a hint
from you
a month?

LET'S SAY
YOU'RE
RIGHT, I'M
IN LOVE...

IT'S STILL
NOT NORMAL
FOR A GUY
TO...

Love

THAT'S IT!
I'M GOING
TO HIS
HOUSE...

...TO
GIVE HIM
A PIECE
OF MY
MIND!

SO BIRI
LIED ABOUT
HAVING AN
EMERGENCY!
WHY DIDN'T
YOU TELL
ME?!

REALLY
?!



THAT DIRTY
CASANOVA!

HOW DARE
HE BREAK
A PROMISE
TO ME!

I KNOW. I
JUST WANTED
TO GO DOWNTOWN
TO LOOK AT SOME
SYNTHSIZERS.

HEY,
SHINDOU.
YOUR HOUSE
IS IN THE
OTHER
DIRECTION!

I'm taking
the long
way home...

WHOA.
SO HE'S
GOT A
RED CAR,
TOO.

THEY'VE
ALREADY
GIVEN UP
ON ME, SO
IT DOESN'T
MATTER.

DON'T YOU
HAVE COLLEGE
ENTRANCE EXAMS
TO STUDY FOR?
YOU'RE GONNA
MAKE YOUR
PARENTS GASP.







OH YEAH, I
WENT TO HIS
CONCERT.

HE JUST
KEPT
BEGGING ME
TO COME.
I COULDN'T
SAY NO.



HEY!

I NEVER...



OH, COME
ON, DON'T
BE SO
STUBBORN,
SHUICHI.



QUIT PLAYING
COY AND GET
OVER HERE.

Let me take
your bag...

AAAGH
H!!





NO, IT'S
COOL.
I CAN'T
STAND HER,
ANYWAY.

*You
hate
me?*

HEY, SHE'S
LEAVING!
ARE YOU
NUTS?
SHE'S HOT!

*Hey,
Kazuki!*



YEAH, I
GUESS
SHE WAS
PRETTY
MAD.

Really mad.

*You're, you're
let go of me
already.*

*It's not
cool!*

DON'T BE SUCH
AN ASSHOLE!
SHE LOOKED
REALLY HURT!



IT'S COLD.
HURRY UP AND
GET INSIDE,
BECAUSE I'M
CLOSING THE
DOOR.

BUT
AREN'T
YOU
HAPPY?

YOU
WANTED
ME ALONE,
RIGHT?

My hair's
a mess. →

H-
HEY!

HOLD
ON!

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN BY
THAT?!

ISN'T IT
OBVIOUS?
YOU'RE IN
LOVE WITH
ME, RIGHT?

EVERYTHING
I SAY OR DO,
YOU HAVE
AN EXTREME
REACTION TO.
YOU'RE TOTALLY
TRANSPARENT.
YOU CARE TOO
MUCH, AND I
CAN SEE RIGHT
THROUGH YOU.

I'M GURE YOU
MADE UP SOME
LAME EXCUSE
TO COME HERE
SO YOU COULD
SEE ME.





OKAY, YOU'RE
RIGHT! I AM
GAY! I REALLY
LIKE BOYS.
WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
THAT?! I'M IN
LOVE! I CAN'T
HELP IT!



HOLD ON,
HOLD ON!

AND WHAT'S
WITH YOU,
ANYWAY?!
WHAT WAS ALL
THAT CRAP YOU
JUST PULLED?!

IF YOU
DON'T LIKE
ME BACK,
THEN WHY
DID YOU
COME TO MY
CONCERT?!

THIS IS
TURNING
INTO A
REAL LOVE
CONFESSION!

YOU USED
ME TO
THROW OUT
YOUR OWN
GIRLFRIEND!

YOU
REALLY
PISS ME
OFF.

THE HALLS ARE



EVERYONE
ASKS ME,
"WHY?"
WHY?"

YOU,
THAT GIRL,
EVERYBODY!
IT'S ALWAYS
THE SAME
CRAP!



I DON'T
KNOW WHY,
OKAY?!

I WENT TO
YOUR CONCERT
BECAUSE I FELT
LIKE IT. SO THAT
GO HARD TO
UNDERSTAND?

AND WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

WHY ARE
YOU IN LOVE
WITH ME?
ARE YOU
INGANE?

EVEN IF
I WEREN'T
STRAIGHT, YOU
DON'T EVEN
KNOW ME!



YUKI...



friends



MM...
NNNN...



He's
already
fucked



stop

HEY...



I THINK WE
NEED TO TAKE
SOME TIME TO
THINK THIS
OVER.

UH...
OKAY...

I-I THINK
I KNOW
WHERE
YOU'RE
COMING
FROM NOW.

OKAY?



LISTEN,
I'M SORRY.
I MADE
THE FIRST
MOVE.



UH...
UH...

I...
UH...



NO!
IT JUST
FELT RIGHT,
AND SO I
WENT WITH
IT! THEN
I TOTALLY
ZONED
OUT IN THE
MIDDLE!!

MY HEAD
WAS
SCREWED UP
OVER THAT
GIRL, SO...

YEAH,
BUT I
STARTED
IT.

NO!

NO! IT
WAS ME!
I SAID
THOSE
THINGS...

NO
NO
NO
NO
NO





I MEAN, FRANKLY, IF I WERE TO CROSS OVER TO GUYS...



OH...

WHAT AM I DOING?



BUT...

I JUST...
I FEEL SO
TIRED.



I DIDN'T
EVEN GET
TO ASK
HIM ABOUT
TOMIIE
SEGUCHI
OR THANK
HIM FOR
COMING
TO THE
CONCERT.



hah
hah
hah

いたあ



Then again, that probably means I'm really happy about it.

YOU IDIOT.

I'M NOT
SURE WHY
YOU'RE
ACTING SO
GIDDY. YOU
SCREWED
EVERYTHING
UP!!





UGHHH!

THERE'S
A WORLD
HISTORY
EXAM!
I NEVER
HEARD
ABOUT IT!!



FORGET
IT.

HELP ME,
HIRO! SWITCH
ANSWER
SHEETS WITH
ME! IF I
GET A BAD
GRADE, I'M
IN DEEP
DOO-DOO!



YOU'RE THE
ONLY ONE
WHO DIDN'T.
WE'RE
COVERING
UP TO
CHAPTER
18!

WHATTAYA
MEAN
"ONCE"? I'VE
ALREADY
DONE IT FIVE
TIMES FOR
YOU.

YOU'RE
ALWAYS
HEAD OF
THE
CLASS!
CAN'T YOU
GET A BAD
GRADE
JUST THIS
ONCE? FOR
ME?!

YOU
SCROOGE! I
THOUGHT
WE WERE
FRIENDS!

Shut up!
Give it
up!

CHAPTER 18?!
THAT'S HALF THE
TEXTBOOK!

AND IF IT'S
MR. OHARA'S
CLASS, THAT
MEANS I CAN'T
CHEAT!



MOM PUT CAULIFLOWER IN MY MISO SOUP WHILE I WAS WATCHING "UNUSUAL DISCOVERIES OF THE WORLD" ON TV. I STILL HAVE THE TASTE IN MY MOUTH AND NOW THAT'S ALL I CAN THINK OF!

The subject is...
Flowers, what?



This can't be a high school test.

I CAN'T THINK...
FLAMENCO...

FLAMENCO...

DAMN THAT CAULIFLOWER!
UHH... IS IT FLAMENCO?



WHERE
THE
HELL IS
SHUICHI
SHINDOU
?!





It's the
cauliflower's
fault! It's
flamenco! The
cauliflower...!

WE NEED
TO TALK!



WHHA-
?!



COME
WITH
ME!

カキ
カキ



Hey, get
your Strawberry!
You first!

IT'S THE
CAULIFLOWER
FLAMENCO
BURN!

YOUR HAIR...

THE
SCHOOLGIRL
LOOK?



OF COURSE
NOT! IT WAS
GETTING IN MY
EYES, SO I
TIED IT UP!

IT'S ALL
OVER THE
PLACE, JUST
LIKE HIS!
YOU'RE REALLY
PISSING ME
OFF!

THEN WHY
DON'T YOU
CUT IT?



HEY,
MIKA-SAN,
YOU'RE
EARLY.

WHO'S
THAT?
A NEW
BOYFRIEND?

We won't
think in that
direction!

NOT MINE.
HE'S EIKI'S
NEW BOY
TOY!

OR IS HE
YOUR TOY?
IT WOULDN'T
SURPRISE ME.

BOY
TOY...?

ABOUT GRAVITATION TRACK 3

Pretending Big Sister Mika. She is one of those amazing characters that makes her own way through the story. The plot gets super complicated from here, to the point where even I start to lose track. Shuichi is quickly heading into Lala's territory. As he pushed the story in that direction, my editors fell ill. The reaction to this chapter was incredible. It was their first kiss, after all. The wall between the boys had isolated innocent readers who were wondering where this crazy Gravitation manga was headed, but now it's totally come down. I've sort of crossed a line and can't go back. It was an especially powerful kissing scene, too. I'm surprised my editors let me get away with it. I added a little more shadow tone for the Collector's edition, and I think that made it more erotic, well, anyway, I'm not going to pull any punches. I'm going to go through with it all the way. Laugh or cry, it's my decision, 100 percent. The author is always right. In, therefore, good luck.



TALK
ABOUT
HUMILIAT-
ING!

WHAT DOES
SURPRISE
ME IS HE
STOOD UP
FOR
A TWEEP
LIKE YOU!



WHA-?!
NOW
WHAT?!
STOP
CRYING! BE
A MAN!



HE TOLD
ME HE HAD
A DATE!
I NEVER
EXPECTED
HIM TO
SHOW...!

I
DIDN'T
KNOW.

I DIDN'T
KNOW HE WAS
GOING TO
COME TO MY
CONCERT!



WAAAAH
thump

LOOK, I
CAN SEE
WHY YOU'RE
MAD! I DON'T
BLAME YOU!

I MAY HAVE
INVITED HIM
TO THE
CONCERT...

BUT IT'S
NOT MY
FAULT THAT
HE CHOSE
TO COME!

YOU MADE
YOURSELF
CLEAR! NOW
PLEASE SIT
DOWN AND
SHUT UP!

HE CAME
ANYWAY
EVEN
THOUGH I
TOLD HIM
NOT TO!!

IN FACT,
I TOLD
HIM NOT
TO COME!!
AND HE DID
ANYWAY!!

OKAY,
JEEZ! I
GET THE
POINT!!

I JUST
SHOW UP, DRAG
YOU OUT OF
SCHOOL, AND
DON'T EVEN
GIVE YOU
A WORD OF
EXPLANATION.

I GUESS
I OVER-
REACTED
A LITTLE.

SORRY,
KIP.



TRUTH BE
TOLD, I
WANTED TO
ASK YOU A
FAVOR.

OF COURSE,
I DON'T
EXPECT YOU
TO DO IT FOR
NOTHING.

I DIDN'T
EVEN
NOTICE
HOW
EMPTY
IT IS...

RIGHT,
MIKA?

There's an
alleyway

GIVE HER A
CHANCE, SON.
SHE EVEN
RENTED OUT
THE BAR SO
YOU COULD
TALK IN
PRIVATE.



Uhhh

NO, GO
RIGHT
AHEAD!

I'm fine with whatever.

WHAT?
GOT A
PROBLEM
WITH
SMOKING?

THERE'S
SOMETHING
ABOUT
THIS
LADY...

WHERE
IS HE,
ANYWAY?!

HE SAID
TODAY WAS
THE ONLY DAY
WE COULD DO
IT. IT'S WHY
I DRAGGED
YOU HERE...

SORRY
I'M
LATE!!

I'M SORRY. I
DIDN'T KNOW IT
WAS A SECRET
WHEN I TOLD
MIKA...

IT
IS
HIM...

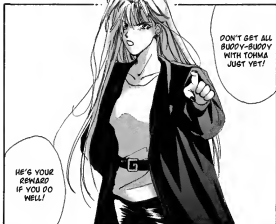
...THAT I
SAW BIRT
AT YOUR
CONCERT.

Enough
already!!

LONG
TIME NO
SEE, EH,
SHINDOU?

HAVE YOU
RECOVERED
FROM THAT
TUMBLE YOU
TOOK?

Sweet



DON'T GET ALL
BUDDY-BUDDY
WITH TOMMA
JUST YET!

HE'S YOUR
REWARD
IF YOU DO
WELL!



Oh... Let's all
remember down
here...
especially
you there, it -

I was just
about to
tell you...

DO YOU EVEN
KNOW WHO HE
IS?

WHAT THE
HELL'S GOING
ON?! YOU
SEEM PRETTY
FRIENDLY WITH
SEGUCHI!

That
bastard!

OF COURSE
I DO.
HE'S MY
HUSBAND.

Wha-
-?

Give Yuki some
sugar... You've
got nice tushbags
there...

Doc

Oh, no!
Please don't!
I'm married!

**...WE'RE
TALKING
ADULTERY?!**

...I'LL LET
YOU GET
AS CHUMMY
WITH TOMMA
AS YOU
WANT.

IF YOU
CAN
CONVINCE
MY
BROTHER
TO COME
HOME...

**ERI YUKI'S
GIRLFRIEND
IS TOMMA
SEGUCHI'S
WIFE!**



**WHICH MEANS
THAT...**

HUSBAND

I don't
believe
it! How
twisted...





FOR A LOVER,
YOU SURE DON'T
KNOW MUCH
ABOUT HIM...
BUT IT SHOULD
BE A PIECE OF
CAKE FOR
YOU.

*Bad feeling
here...*

GO...

CONVINCE...?
YOUR BR-
BROTHER...?

*Is that
all?*



I WON'T
TAKE NO
FOR AN
ANSWER,
SHINDOU.

AFTER ALL,
YOU OWE
ME.

GET MY
LITTLE
BROTHER TO
DO WHAT I
WANT, AND
YOU'RE ALL
SET.

グッ

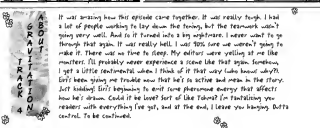
I can't say
that it was all
an act now,
she'll kill me.



track3 END

track 4





It was amazing how this episode came together. It was really tough. I had a lot of people working to lay down the taping, but the teamwork wasn't going very well. And so it turned into a big nightmare. I never want to go through that again. It was really hell. I was 90% sure we weren't going to make it. There was no time to sleep. My editors were yelling at me like monsters. I'll probably never experience a scene like that again. Somehow, I got a little sentimental when I think of it that way. Why? Because Eiri's been giving me trouble now that he's so active and mean in the story. Just kidding! Eiri's beginning to emit some phenomenal energy that affects how he's drawn. Could it be love? Sort of like Tetsu? I'm fantasizing you readers with everything I've got, and at the end, I leave you hanging. Butts control. To be continued.

W-WELL,
NOW THAT
YOU
MENTION
IT, I DID
NOTICE...
A LITTLE.



I FIGURED
THE FAMILY
RESEMBLANCE
WOULD TIP
YOU OFF.

*She looks
like me,
but with
makeup.*



YUKI...

Coffee
brought by
Gut

UM...
WELL...

WHAT?

ARE YOU AT
ALL CLOSE
WITH YOUR
PARENTS?

SHOONK

I GET
IT.



SHE THINKS
IF HER POWERS
OF PERSUASION
FAIL TO
CONVINCE ME,
THEN MAYBE
MY LOVEBOY'S
CAN.

...or something like
that...

Cool
that
huh!

MY SISTER
WILL TRY
ANYTHING,
WON'T
SHE? SHE'S
CRAFTY.

I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
UP TO
SOMETHING.

What,
darling,
can
you
do...

Just do it! Get
your butt on
your feet!

Don't
complain!
Just get
out to
come
home!

WELL...

THE WAY
SHE PUT IT, IT
KINDA SEEMED
LIKE SHE HAD
NO OTHER
CHOICE.

Is she
"always that
way?"

I GUESS SO.
MY DAD'S GOT
ONE FOOT IN
THE GRAVE, SO
SHE'S
DESPERATE.

Pretty much,
yeah,
that's her
way.

THE OLD
BASTARD
SHOULD JUST
GIVE UP
THE GHOST
ALREADY.

IT'S
KIND OF
SHEET...
BUT IT'S
PRETTY
TRADITIONAL
THINKING. SHE
WANTS THE
ELDEST SON
TO SEE HIS
FATHER BEFORE
HE KICKS THE
BUCKET.



HOW MUCH
DID SHE
PAY YOU?

THAT'S
HORRIBLE!
YOU'VE
GOTTA GO
HOME!!

And
you're
the
eldest
son!

WHAT?!

YOU'D
SAY THAT
ABOUT
YOUR
DYING
FATHER?!

SHUUBUN
SHUUBUN

IF MIKA
CAN'T HANDLE
ME, WHAT
CHANCE DOES
A GRIIMP LIKE
YOU HAVE?

1,000 YEN?
5,000?
10,000?

DON'T TELL
ME YOU'RE
DUMB ENOUGH
TO DO THIS
JOB FOR
FREE?

HUH?



TOHMA
SEGUCHI
HAS
SOMETHING
TO DO
WITH THIS,
DOESN'T
HE?

OR
MAYBE...



THAT'S



IS THAT
WHY YOU
CAME TO
TALK TO ME
THE OTHER
DAY?

EH?



AND YOU'RE
DOING THIS
BECAUSE
THERE'S
SOMETHING IN
IT FOR YOU,
RIGHT?

IT'S A BIT
MUCH FOR YOU
TO TRY TO
TAKE THE HIGH
ROAD. YOUR
HANDS AREN'T
EXACTLY
CLEAN.

AND DON'T
THINK THAT
JUST BECAUSE
I KISSED
YOU, THERE
IS ANYTHING
MEANINGFUL
BETWEEN
US.



WHY
SHOULD I
SWALLOW MY
PRIDE AND
GO HOME
AFTER ALL
THIS TIME?

FOR YOUR
SAKE?





WHY DON'T
YOU PUNCH
ME? SHOVE
ME AWAY?

IF IT'S
NOTHING, WHY
ARE YOU
LETTING ME
KISS YOU?



TO YOU IT
MIGHT BE
JUST A
KISS...

...BUT FOR ME,
IT IS MORE!



BUT
I...

YEAH, MIKA SAID
SHE WOULD TALK
TO SEIGUCHI FOR
ME IF I GOT YOU
TO GO.

BULLSHIT!

YOU'RE
A LIAR.



..I DON'T CARE
ABOUT
SEIGUCHI
OR ANY OF
THAT OTHER
STUFF!

I JUST
WANTED AN
EXCUSE TO
SEE YOU!!



sob



YOU TRYING TO
TELL ME YOU
DON'T HAVE ANY
INTEREST IN
WHAT MIKA IS
OFFERING?
YOU'RE HERE OUT
OF KINDNESS?

DON'T MAKE
ME LAUGH!

YOU THINK
YOU ARE
DOING ME
A FAVOR?



**THIS IS
TERRIBLE!**

YU--

**IT'S THE
WORST THING
THAT'S EVER
HAPPENED...!!**

YUKI...

**THAT'S THE
BIGGEST
LOAD OF
CRAP EVER!**

ARE YOU
SERIOUS
ABOUT YOUR
FUTURE?
DO YOU
WANT TO
GRADUATE?!

*You're failing
everything
except music
and PE*

*What's
going
on
with you?*

*And you
failed the test
to boot!*

HOW DO
YOU EXPLAIN
RUNNING OFF
WITH AN OLDER
WOMAN IN THE
MIDDLE OF
A TEST? YOU
SHOULD BE
SUSPENDED
FOR THAT
ALONE!

YOUR
BEHAVIOR
LATELY HAS
REALLY
GOTTEN OUT
OF HAND!

AND FOR
GOD'S SAKE,
GET A HAIRCUT!
YOU'RE IN
VIOLATION OF
THE SCHOOL
DRESS CODE!



**DON'T ARGUE
WITH ME!!**

*You look like
an ugly girl!*

DON'T EVEN
GET ME
STARTED ON
HOW FAR
BELOW THE
APPROPRIATE
ATTENDANCE
LEVEL YOU
ARE...!!



NO, I'M NOT.
IT'S IN A
PROPER
PONYTAIL.



THEN AGAIN,
YOU ARE
SECOND-TO-
LAST IN OUR
ENTIRE CLASS,
SO I SUSPECT
YOU'RE ASKING
FOR IT.

GOT
PINCHED
AGAIN,
BUT YOU
TEENAGE
REBEL!

YO.

1 post
20
2

The Palladium = a cool club.

I KNOW
SOMETHING
THAT'LL
CHEER
YOU UP.

THEY
OFFERED US
ANOTHER
GIG AT THE
PALLADIUM.

AND NOT
AS THE
OPENING
ACT EITHER--
WE'D BE
HEADLINING!

Really?

YOU GET IT IS!
I HAVE NO
PITY FOR THE
CHRONICALLY
STUPID.

YEAH, MUST
BE NICE FOR
YOU IN THE #2
SLOT, LOOKING
DOWN AT US
DUMBBELLS.

You'll never
understand!

Here's
your coat

EXIT
SOMEONE
YOU CAN
WHY
YOU...





WHY
SHOULD
I GET
MAD?

WHATEVER
IT IS, IT'S
OBVIOUSLY
PRETTY
IMPORTANT
TO YOU,
RIGHT?

WE'RE
YOUNG.
THERE WILL
BE PLENTY
OF OTHER
CONCERTS.

I WISH I'D
FALLEN IN
LOVE WITH YOU
INSTEAD.

OH,
SERIOUSLY, MAN!
YOU ROCK.

YOU'RE THE
BEST FRIEND
A GUY COULD
HAVE.

MAYBE IF YOU
GET A SEX
CHANGE, I'D
CONSIDER IT.

YOU'RE
ONLY JUST
FIGURING
THAT OUT?

In fact,
why don't
you look
into it?

Forget
it.





HURRY UP
AND GET
YOUR BUTT
IN A BATH!

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?!
YOU'VE BEEN
TINKERING
AROUND IN
HERE ALL
NIGHT!



I'M GOING
TO READ
MY NEW SBI
YUKI NOVEL
TONIGHT, AND
I REQUIRE
SILENCE.

DO IT NOW,
BEFORE
I GET
COMFORT-
ABLE.

NOT A
CHANCE! YOU
ALWAYS MAKE
TOO MUCH
NOISE WHEN
YOU TAKE
A BATH.

GET OFF
MY BACK,
WHYDONCHA?
I'LL TAKE
ONE LATER.

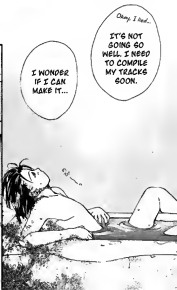


SHUT UP!
ALL
RIGHT,
ALREADY!

IF YOU
RUIN MY
EVENING,
I'LL KICK
YOUR ASS!

Understand?







JUST YOU
WAIT!
I'LL SHOW
YOU,
YOU BIG
WENIES!

WHY CAN'T
THINGS EVER
GO MY WAY...?



I'M
JUST...

I'M SO
TIRED
ALL THE
TIME...



HELLO,
MR.
TURTLE,
FUNNY OL'
TURTLE...

ALL RIGHT!
THIS CALLS
FOR A
SONG!

THERE'S
NO ONE
IN THE
WORLD
WHO'S...

He's not
a
character,
that's
how
of
course!



The First
Season
Series



HELLO,
SHINDOU.

I'VE
BEEN
WAITING...

**I'LL
PROVE TO
YOU WHO
THE REAL
LIAR IS!**



Oh, you don't drink?

Yeah, just read fan, please.

How about a whiskey and coke, Double-zero?

I'M GLAD YOU CALLED.

I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR DOING THAT FAVOR FOR ME.

I'M SORRY ...!

X



WHAT'S WITH THE LONG FACE?

EVERYTHING WITH BIRI WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN, RIGHT?



I'D THINK YOU'D BE A BIT HAPPIER. THIS COULD BE YOUR BIG BREAK, KID.

I'M...





HELLO?

OH, MIKA...



WHY WOULD
HE WANT TO
RECORD IT
ON HIS OWN?

HOW'D IT
GO? DID
HE BRING
THE DEMO
TAPE?

REALLY?

DOESN'T
MATTER. IT
WOULDN'T
BEEN A WASTE
OF TIME
ANYWAY.



IT WOULD
JUST END
UP MAKING
SOME GENIUS
PRODUCER AT
NG LOOK BAD.
MAYBE YOU,
TOMMA.

EVEN IF
THAT IDIOT
GOT IT
TOGETHER
ENOUGH TO
PUT OUT A CD,
NOBODY
WOULD
BUY IT.

4-6 = Tomma's company

OH, COME
ON. WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
CALLING YOU
BY YOUR
REAL NAME?



OF
COURSE! WHAT
KIND OF
IDIOT DO
YOU TAKE
ME FOR?
HE'D THROW
THIS CHANCE
AWAY,
WESGUS?



OKAY
THEN,
SIRI.

IF YOU'RE
GOING TO
BE SHOTTY
LIKE THAT,
THEN USE
MY FIRST
NAME.





ABOUT
AS MUCH
AS I
HATE
YOU.



I DIDN'T
REALIZE
THE NAME
DEBUI
SUGGEST YOU
THAT BAD.

YOU MUST
REALLY HATE
YOUR FATHER...
TO HATE HIS
NAME SO
MUCH.



What
are you
talking
about?!



YOU
REALLY
ARE A
STUBBORN
BASTARD.
BUT
THAT'S
WHAT
MAKES
YOU SO
LOVABLE.



DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT. I'M JUST
HONORED TO HAVE
THE PLEASURE OF
SEEMING MR. TOMMA
SEGUCHI TO THE
AIRPORT.

SUGGESTION

I APOLOGIZE.
YOU WERE
KIND ENOUGH
TO HELP ME
OUT, SO I
SHOULDN'T
BE A JERK.

I'M SORRY
I DON'T HAVE
MORE TIME
TO TALK,
THOUGH.



...AND
SHINDOU
FORGOT HIS
FIRST
CHANCE AT
STARDOM.

IT'S A BAD
DAY FOR
EVERYONE.
MIKA'S PLAN
HAS FAILED...

THEN
AGAIN,
I'M
GLAD.

I HAD
A FEELING
THE KID
WOULD MAKE
THE RIGHT
CHOICE.

THE
RIGHT
CHOICE?

ARE YOU
MAKING ME
OUT TO BE
THE BAD
GUY?



THERE WILL
BE PLENTY
MORE
CHANCES
FOR HIM.

HE'D RATHER
NOT AUDITION
UNTIL HE'S
GOT HIS
SONGS UP
TO SNUFF.

I THINK IT'S
GOOD THAT
SHINDOU IS
LETTING HIS
FAITH IN HIS
OWN TALENT
DICTATE HIS
ACTIONS.

NO, NOT
AT ALL.



WHAT?

YOU THINK
HE'S GOT
A SHOT,
THEN?

YOU THINK
HE'LL EVER BE
GOOD ENOUGH
FOR YOU TO
PRODUCE HIM?





I THINK
HE'S
PRETTY
SERIOUSLY
IN LOVE
WITH ME...

This is
the
current
image
of
Shuichi.
Sometimes
he
doesn't
picture
him
imagining
a cup of
coffee.

...EVEN
THOUGH HE
KNOWS
NOTHING
ABOUT ME.



YET HE
COULDN'T CARE
LESS ABOUT
HOW I FEEL
FOR HIM, MUCH
LESS ABOUT MY
REPUTATION.
HONESTLY...



HE SAID HIS
FEELINGS FOR
ME OUTWEIGH
ANYTHING YOU
HAVE TO
OFFER...

...AND THAT
HE DOESN'T
WANT TO GAIN
ANYTHING FROM
THEM BUT MY
LOVING HIM
BACK.



...THERE'S NO WAY I CAN RETURN HIS AFFECTION.

THAT JUST MAKES HIS SACRIFICE SEEM CRUEL, DON'T YOU THINK?

Hey, there's your dog, Saguchi!

Follow the pet dog →

Ruff Ruff!

Saguchi-san! Over here!
Saguchi-san! Over here!

Oh, there you are! Saguchi-san! Over here!

I THINK YOUR SELFISHNESS ALLOWS YOU TO OVERSIMPLIFY.



MAYBE YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT BY THE TIME I RETURN.

THINK ABOUT THAT WHILE I'M IN NEW YORK.



IF YOU UNCLENCHED A LITTLE, YOU'D SEE THERE'S ONE THING YOU CAN DO FOR SHINDOU.





WELL,
CRAP.

IS THIS
THE WAY
THE WORLD
WORKS?



Ha
ha
ha!

I'M SICK OF
EVERYTHING.
I EVEN SLEPT
ON THE JOB
TODAY.

I THINK
IT WAS
PRETTY
LAZY OF
MY BOSS
TO GET SO
MAD...

HA HA
ははは
HA HA
HA HA
HE MADE ME
GO LOVE-SICK,
I STAYED UP
THREE NIGHTS IN
A ROW! I WAS
SO COMPLETELY
WASTED,
I COULDN'T
KEEP MY
EYES OPEN!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE I
GOT ALL
WORKED UP
OVER THAT
PRICK!

うひゃ
うひゃ
うひゃ



IF THIS WERE
A TV SHOW,
YUKI WOULD
SHOW UP
RIGHT ABOUT
NOW AND SAY
SOMETHING
SMARTASS-
LIKE...



DUUUUDE!
THAT'S
COLD! HOW
SUCKY! I'M
DROWNING!

Just kidding!

"FIRST YOU'RE
GAY, THEN
YOU'RE FULL OF
PHLEGM!" THEN
HE'D DRAG ME OUT
AND WE'D BE
MANY FRIENDS
AGAIN!

Wow! Easy!



"WHAT ARE
YOU DOING,
YOU IDIOT?
YOU'RE
GONNA
CATCH A
COLD."

*In a deep
voice*



LIKE
THAT'S
EVER
GONNA
HAPPEN.

NEVER IN
A MILLION
YEARS.

YEAH,
RIGHT.



I'M
SUCH A
LOSER!

AAAAAGH!

AND THE
DEMO TAPE
I MADE IS
JUST CRAP.

AND
AFTER ALL
THAT, I
STILL LOVE
HIM.

I'M IN
LOVE WITH A
REALLY NEAT
GUY! AND HE
HATES ME!

Oh no!
Yeah!

What am
I supposed
to do?!
Does he
want
blood?!

HEY,
WHAT'S
UP?

GOOD
MEMORY!

OH, I MET
YOU AT
YUKI'S
HOUSE,
RIGHT?

UH...
WHA--?

Hello. ☺

I HOPE
I'M NOT
INTERRUPTING.

I MET YOU
THE OTHER
DAY. DO YOU
REMEMBER
ME?

I THINK I
WAS STILL A
TEENAGER.
YOU HAVE
GROWN UP
SO MUCH.
BUT I HATE
IT A LITTLE
TO HAVE
TO PRACTICE
YOUR
SWIMMING
IN THE
MIDDLE OF
WINTER?

W
A
H

Ha-
chooo!





I'VE BEEN
SEARCHING
EVERYWHERE,
ALL OF HIS
USUAL
HANGOUTS.

HE GOES TO
THAT PARK TO
TAKE A WALK
WHEN HE NEEDS
TO WORK OUT
HIS WRITER'S
BLOCK, SO...

MR. YUKI,
I MEAN.



HE'S
MISSING?!



Oh my

SOMETIMES
WORKING
WITH HIM IS
A REAL
NIGHTMARE.

HE ALWAYS
DISAPPEARS
RIGHT BEFORE
DEADLINES.

I'D CHECK
WITH HIS
GIRLFRIENDS,
BUT HE HAS
SO MANY,
I WOULDN'T
KNOW WHERE
TO START.

I can't
handle
him, all
your
fault!

I
see...

See lot
of places
the Yuki
might go





IT'S SAD,
THOUGH,
BECAUSE I
HEAR HIS
FATHER IS
VERY ILL...

HIS
FAMILY
RUNS A
TEMPLE.



YOU
THINK...
MAYBE
HE WENT
TO HIS
PARENTS'
HOME?

UH...



YEAH,
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

COME
ON!

THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE.

JUST LIKE
THAT?

ぐん
shump

He looks
kind-back...

YEAH, IT'S
SO NOT WHAT
HE'S INTO. HE
HATES STUFFY
ATMOSPHERES.

HE ACTED
LIKE THAT'S
THE LAST
PLACE HE'D
EVER WANT
TO BE.

...but
he's
really
very posy!

I'm never

going back!!





I HAD TO
FEIGN
ILLNESS
JUST TO
GET YOU
TO COME
BACK.

YOU'RE 22
NOW. WHAT
KIND OF
EXAMPLE ARE
YOU TO YOUR
YOUNGER
BROTHER?



EIRI.

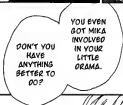


UNTIL YOU
HURRY UP
AND DIE.



HOW LONG
DO YOU
INSIST ON
ACTING OUT
THIS
CHARACTER?

DID YOU LOSE
YOUR ABILITY
TO SPEAK
ALONG WITH
YOUR SENSE
OF RIGHT AND
WRONG?



DON'T YOU
HAVE
ANYTHING
BETTER TO
DO?

YOU EVEN
GOT MIKA
INVOLVED
IN YOUR
LITTLE
DRAMA.



And to top it off...

SOMETHING
MORE
PRODUCTIVE TO
OCCUPY YOUR
TIME WHEN
YOU'RE NOT
OBSESSING
ABOUT SEX?



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, YOU EVEN CUT YOUR HAIR.

I GUESS LOVE DOES CONQUER ALL.



EIRI!!!

Chill out, pops!



GO AHEAD AND TAKE HIS SIDE. I COULDN'T CARE LESS.

Are you listening?

WHAT? ARE YOU IGNORING ME?

GO AHEAD! BUT WE BOTH KNOW THIS WAS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

IT WAS MY DECISION TO COME HERE.

You're gonna get nowhere if you stay mad...

WRY!



WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING
TO DO?

THAT GIRL IS
SERIOUS
ABOUT THIS
ARRANGEMENT,
YOU KNOW.

DON'T GET
ALL FREAKY
ON ME,
BIG SISTER.



YOUR COMING
HERE MADE
THE OLD MAN
HAPPY. IT
WAS WHAT HE
WANTED THE
MOST.

YOU KNOW
THAT, DON'T
YOU?



You little punk!
BUT DID
GETTING
MARRIED
MAKE YOU
EVEN
DUMBER
THAN
BEFORE?

IT WAS
YOUR
IDEA FOR
ME TO
COME
HOME...

*So
bring--*

DON'T
WORRY.

I LIKE MY
JOB THE
WAY IT IS.
I'LL STAY
SINGLE,
THANKS!



...BUT
HAS A
FIANCEE?

YOU
MEAN...



YES.



HOWEVER, I
DON'T THINK MR.
YUKI HAS ANY
INTENTION OF
GOING THROUGH
WITH IT.

...and now
he's got
a fiancée?
This is
too much!

It's like
an alternate
universe...

First I
find out
he's the
son of a
monk...

...BUT IT
SEEMS HIS
FATHER
ARRANGED
FOR THIS
GIRL TO BE
HIS WIFE.

I DON'T
KNOW
ALL THE
DETAILS...



GOSH, I'M
SORRY. IF YOU
LET ME START
TALKING,
I NEVER
SHUT UP.

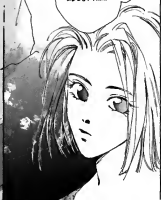
DON'T BE SAD,
SHINDOU. IT'S
NOT THE END
OF THE WORLD.
I MEAN, IT'S
NOT AS IF...

I...



I JUST
REALIZED...

I DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT HIM.





I JUST
FEEL SO...

I DIDN'T
EVEN
KNOW HIS
NAME AT
FIRST.

AND NOW
THAT'S
ACTUALLY
THE ONLY
THING I DO
KNOW.

I WAS
BLINDED
BY MY
EMOTIONS,
THOUGHT I
KNEW WHAT
WAS WHAT.

I DIDN'T
EVEN STOP
TO THINK
ABOUT HIS
FEELINGS OR
WHAT HIS
LIFE MIGHT
BE LIKE.



...mad
at
myself!

...SO...



YOU CAN
ASK HIM
WHATEVER
YOU WANT.

YOU'LL
HAVE
PLenty OF
TIME...

DON'T
WORRY.

S-
SHINDOU?!
WHAT
TH--?

HE WON'T
LISTEN...

...TO
ANYTHING

I SAID
ANYWAY...

OH, NO!
YOU'VE
GOT A
FEVER!!

SHOULD I
CALL AN
AMBULANCE?!

SHUICHI
!!

MY HEAD
HURTS...

I'M
GONNA
DIE...

HELP
ME...

...YUKI...